MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There is no G. O. or rule prohibiting subordinates of the Sri Pandaravaka Department being taken over to any other Department. G. O. D. Dis. No. 1314/27/Rev., dated the 14th October 1927, lays down that there should be no free interchange of hands between the Sri Pandaravaka and Land Revenue Departments.

(*b*) No Accountant by name G. Mahadeva Aiyar was appointed in the Survey Department from the Sanketam Department. But one P. Mahadeva Aiyar, an Accountant in the Sanketam Department was appointed as Sub-protem Computor-Draftsman in the Survey Office.

(*c*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

(*d*) The Accountant joined duty in the Survey Office on 3-7-1104 and the sanction of Government for his transfer to the Survey Department was applied for on 20-11-1106.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*f*).

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): With reference to part (*a*), may I know whether this G. O. No. 1314/27/Revenue, dated the 14th October 1927, lays down that Government sanction should be obtained before such interchange of hands is made.

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Gevernment*): Yes.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know why in this particular case Government sanction was applied for only 2 years after the appointment was made?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Probably, it was an omission.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether this omission was found out by the superior authorities or by the authority who appointed this person?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether, at that time, there was any other application from the Survey Department?

MR P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

Enquiry into the case of overpayment of tiruppuvaram in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

340. MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the amount of Government money lost on account of the *tiruppuvaram* overpayment case in the Neyyattinkara taluk;

(*b*) in whom they have fixed the main responsibility for the loss;

(*c*) whether they have filed suits against the *matoms* or persons who have overdrawn the amounts, and, if not, whether they contemplate doing so

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(*d*) whether they have started any definite proceedings against anybody for the effective realisation of those amounts, and, if so, what;

(*e*) whether they intend recovering the amount from the officers responsible for it;

(*f*) whether the enquiry into the case has closed and final orders passed by Government; and

(*g*) if the answer to part (*f*) is in the affirmative, whether they will lay the relevant papers on the table?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Not yet fully ascertained. The actual amount overpaid can be known only when the further verification ordered to be conducted by the Tahsildar, Neyyattinkara, with reference to the pre settlement records, and now going on in the Taluk Office is completed and the final report received from the Land Revenue Commissioner.

(*b*) The then Tahsildar Mr. T Sankaranarayana Aiyar and his subordinates in the Taluk and Pakuthi Offices who originally verified the claims are found to have been mainly responsible for the loss.

(*c*) and (*d*) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The question of recovery will be considered after the exact amount overpaid is ascertained.

(*e*) The matter will be considered at the time the question of recovery of the amount overpaid is taken up for consideration.

(*f*) No. The member is referred to the answer to part (*a*) above.

(*g*) This does not arise in view of answer to part (*f*).

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In answer to part (*a*), it is stated that the amount has not yet been fully ascertained? Can the member tell me at least approximately the amount lost to Government?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): About Rs. 8,000.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the Land Revenue Commissioner had made a preliminary investigation in the matter?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): When did that investigation close?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is still proceeding. The actual amount overpaid has not yet been ascertained.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Part (*a*) says that the actual amount over-paid can be known only when the further verification, ordered to be conducted by the Tahsildar, Neyyattinkara, is completed. May I know the date of this order?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Land Revenue Commissioner made a preliminary report in October 1929. He also wanted orders on certain general principles to be followed in the matter of finding out the irregularity. Government sanction was

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[Mr. P. Visvanatha Aiyar.]

given to the requests made by the Commissioner. The accounts are being verified by the Tahsildar, Neyyattinkara, and the report will be submitted to the authorities in due course. In pursuance of the Government order, the Tahsildar has actually begun to conduct the enquiry.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What is the subject of his enquiry?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He is enquiring as to when this over-payment was made.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): When was it found out at first?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In October 1929.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In regard to part (*b*) it is stated that the Tahsildar and his subordinates in the Taluk and the Pakuthi Officers, who originally verified the claims, are found to have been mainly responsible for the loss. May I know whether these officers were punished?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Am I to understand that these officers were punished before the investigation was over?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Punishment was given for the indifference displayed by the officers in the discharge of their duties to Government. And, investigation is proceeding in regard to the amount overpaid.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from the member whether any officer was dismissed from service?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): One officer was dismissed. I believe he is the Head Clerk and an appeal is pending before Government in regard to that.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know what punishment was meted out to the Tahsildar?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He was reduced by seven steps.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In the light of the huge amount that the Government have lost do they not consider that the punishment is very light?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Degradation by seven steps is no light punishment.

PRESIDENT: You are not in order Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai. That is not a supplementary question.

Grant of agricultural loans in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

341. **MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): With reference to the grant of agricultural loans in the Neyyattinkara taluk, will the Government be pleased to state:

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